

## HOW TO FACILITATE A CALL-IN FOR THE WEEK OF ACTION

Phone calls are an impactful way to influence legislators. Calling your member of Congress's office is easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Congressional offices receive many calls from constituents every day. Every call is tallied by the office, and they use the volume of calls on a certain issue to gauge what's most important to their constituents. Typically, the issues with the greatest number of calls are the ones that get the most attention from the member of Congress.

You can plan a call-in around a club or community meeting, after your screening of the [No Small Matter](#) documentary, or in any other setting with a group of other advocates.

In order to have the greatest impact, we encourage you to organize a call-in, during which a group of advocates gather to make phone calls to their elected official's office, back to back, about the same issue. This may sound weird or uncomfortable, since if you were to personally receive a bunch of phone calls back to back with the same message you'd think it was pretty annoying. **Yet this is actually really effective in getting the attention of lawmakers!** It's similar to a legislator receiving a similar number of postcards or handwritten letters about the same issue, but phone calls typically carry more weight.

To start, look up the phone number of your congressional representatives at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

Check out this [video](#) about calling your legislator to prep yourself and your fellow advocates!

### Tips on Calling your Member of Congress:

- **Your representative or senator will not be the one to take your call so you don't have to be nervous!** A staffer will answer the call and take down your message to tally with other constituent calls they receive that day.
- **You don't have to be an expert.** Don't feel that you have to memorize facts and figures before your call. It's more important to express that you are a constituent who is passionate about helping kids.
- **State that you are a constituent.** When you call, tell the staffer who answers that you are a constituent and give them your address so that they can mail you a written response.
- **If you have a story, share it!** Personal stories go a long way to illustrating the problem.
- **Be brief.** The staffer who answers the phone receives many calls every day. Simply let them know why you are calling and that you are a constituent. Be sure to give them the bill number if you are calling about specific legislation.

### Sample Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) Call Script:

Hi. My name is [\_\_\_\_] and I live in [city, state].

I'm calling to ask [legislator] to support additional funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. These grants help low- and middle-income families in [state] and all across the country afford high-quality child care, benefitting children, their families and the economy! Thank you.